

## LA COUNTY NURSES HONORED DURING NATIONAL WEEK OF RECOGNITION

By Kathleen Piché, Public Affairs Director



This year, National Nurses Week honored nurses with the theme "Nurses Leading the Way." National Nurses Week runs from May 6 to May 12, and remembers the birthday of Florence Nightingale, founder of nursing as a modern profession.

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors (BOS) recognized nurses from multiple county departments, including LACDMH, DCFS, LAFD, LASD and DHS, by holding a morning breakfast and recognition ceremony with department heads and nurses of the year from each department, followed by a formal presentation of proclamations and scrolls signed by all five Supervisors to each nurse during the BOS meeting. LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W., and Chief Deputy Director, Robin Kay, Ph.D., were present to honor the LACDMH nurse of the year.

After the BOS recognition, the LACDMH Nursing Professional Concerns Committee (NPCC) honored their own by holding the *2014 Annual Spring Gala and Nurse Recognition*, at Almansor Court in Alhambra, which included lunch, an educational seminar with LACDMH Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, M.D., entitled *The RN's Role in the Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Clients with Substance-Use Disorders*, and an official award ceremony.



LACDMH nurse of the year, Rebecca “Mabek” Montoya Yumul, accepted her award, along with a paperweight for working at DMH for over 25 years. Ms. Yumul gave an inspiring talk on what it means to have the heart of a champion, telling the story of how hard it was for the U.S. Silver medal winner from Sochi to win with multiple life barriers, including having ADHD.

2014 nominees recognized included:

- Chris Collins, SMHCRN, West Valley Mental Health,
- Donna Dasig, SRMHCRN San Fernando Valley Mental Health,
- Lisa Nau, MHCRN, West Valley Mental Health
- Marta Tsegaye, MHCRN West Valley Mental Health,
- Mildred Shrubbs, PMHNP, Rio Hondo Mental Health,
- Mimie Gervacio, MHCRN Rio Hondo Mental Health,
- Nancy Corona, MHCRN, Northeast Mental Health,
- Tina Robinson, MHCRN Downtown Mental Health
- Patricia Attalla, MHCRN San Fernando Mental Health, FSP,
- Vicky M. Fong, RN II, Jail FIP

National Nurses Week acknowledges nurses’ vast contributions and how they are leading the way in improving health care and ultimately, the health of the nation. Nurses are recognized for their role as expert clinicians in diverse care settings and as leaders who can dramatically influence the quality of care and overall performance of the healthcare system. Nurses are leading initiatives to increase access to care and improve outcomes by focusing on primary care, prevention, wellness, chronic disease management and the coordination of care among health care providers and community settings.